BY WIRE (BACK CHANNEL VIA CAS)

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July 3, 19/1 -- SII TO 25

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TO:

David Halperin for Henry A. Kissinger (Saigon)

FROM:

B/Gen Alexander M. Haig

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SUBJECT:

Peterson's Briefing Book and Generalized Preferences

Pete Peterson has forwarded for our comment a memorandum to go to the President today transmitting Peterson's briefing book on the international economic situation. He asks the President to decide whether it should be published.

Peterson also proposes a delay in submission of generalized tariff preference legislation. He has talked to Rogers and gotten his reluctant agreement to postpone submission. Peterson wishes to use a delay to reformulate our preference scheme along more restrictive lines, imitating Europeans and Japanese. His memorandum assumes that, on the basis of a conversation with him, the President has made a decision to delay.

Because of the implications, I have informed Peterson that he should:

1. Delete any mention in his memorandum to the President of a proposed delay in submission of tariff preference legislation, until there has been a chance to assess the foreign policy consequences.

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2. Delete a request for a Presidential decision on publishing the briefing book until the agencies and the White House staff have had a chance to review it.

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We are taking a tough line with Peterson on these two issues and plan to do so until you return unless you wish some other approach.

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No Objection to Declassification in Full 2010/04/28: LOC-HAK-254-2-38-6